

Lebanese fight Easter Monday battle

BEIRUT (R) — Rival Christian forces fought with mortars, rocket-launched grenades and heavy machine-guns for two hours on Easter Monday in what diplomats said was a prelude to all-out warfare for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland. Security sources said the battles between troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) ignited huge fires in Sh Al Ph in battered east Beirut and Zouk to the north. There was no immediate word on casualties. Diplomats told Reuters they expected full-scale war now that the Easter kill had ended and intensive mediation efforts by Lebanon's Maronite Christian church and the Arab League had failed to end the conflict peacefully. At least 950 people have been killed and more than 3,000 wounded since fighting for the leadership of Lebanon's Christian community began in Jan. 31. The battles have devastated the Christian enclave, causing an estimated \$1 billion in damage. The diplomats said Aoun, was organising his troops and training them for the expected battle.



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Switch to summer time on April 26

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch to summer time from midnight Thursday, April 26 when clocks are put forward an hour, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday. The switch will put Jordan three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Jardaneh off to London

AMMAN (R) — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh left for London Monday for debt rescheduling talks with banks grouped in the London Club of commercial creditors, an official said. He gave no further details of the talks, due to open Wednesday. Jardaneh said recently that Jordan expected to sign a long-delayed accord with commercial banks grouped in the club by mid-April, paving the way for new loans of up to \$50 million. Bankers involved in the deal have confirmed that prospects for the new money had improved.

Katyushas land in west Galilee

TEL AVIV (R) — Several Soviet-made Katyusha rockets were fired into northern Israel Monday, security sources said. They said the rockets exploded harmlessly in western Galilee. The attack was the first this month. The rockets were apparently fired from somewhere along the coastal road north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon and south of the town of Tyre, Israel Radio said.

Tias in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian Defence Minister General Mustafa Tias met senior officials of the Lebanese government of Damascus-backed President Elias Hrawi after arriving in west Beirut Monday, security sources said. Syria has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon and Tias makes frequent inspection tours. Dozens of Syrian soldiers patrolled west Beirut streets as part of tightened security for the visit, witnesses said.

Sharaa meets Egyptian envoy

DAMASCUS (AP) — Egypt's new ambassador to Syria, the first since Damascus ruptured ties in 1977 over the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, presented his credentials Monday. Ambassador Mustapha Abdul Aziz Mursi's credentials were accepted by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa. The Syrian Arab News Agency said the two discussed means of improving relations between the two countries as well as developments in the Arab World. "The importance of Arab solidarity to confront various challenges was stressed," the agency said.

Militia leader killed in West Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Gunmen in a steaming car killed a commander of the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia in west Beirut Monday, police reported. An Amal official said Ali Abu Hassan, the militia's commander in the Zokak Al Blat district of the city's western sector, was assassinated by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah. The official said Abu Hassan was fatally wounded in the attack and died shortly after he arrived at the American University Hospital. Police said Amal militiamen later took to the streets, firing in the air and raiding apartments near the scene of the slaying in an apparent dragnet for the assassins.

Centrists beat Slovenia Communists

BELGRADE (R) — A centrist coalition has ousted Communists from power after 45 years in Yugoslavia's Slovenia republic, Tass news agency said Monday. Official results showed that the six-party Democratic United Opposition of Slovenia (DE-MOS) got 55 per cent of votes in April 8 elections for the Slovenian parliament. Its leader has said the group will seek independence from Belgrade.

Clashes mark anniversary of Abu Jihad killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

— Israeli troops clashed with Palestinians marking the second anniversary Monday of the killing of the man who Israel believed had orchestrated the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Demonstrators in the West Bank carried the Palestinian flag, burned tyres and clashed with troops as they commemorated the assassination of Khalil Al Wazir, the deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In the Abo Ghosh village near Ramallah, streets were draped with the Palestinian flag and walls plastered with posters of Wazir (Abu Jihad).

"We swear on the blood of Abu Jihad to continue the intifada," said the slogan on the posters.

Israeli soldiers and settlers.

The rampage in Arab Jerusalem began when a half-dozen Palestinian youths, their faces covered with masks and chequered scarves, ran along Salaeddin street and smashed the windows of at least five cars.

Palestinian sources said the Gaza Strip was relatively quiet after Israel confined 650,000 Palestinians there to their homes to stem anticipated demonstrations on the anniversary.

Troops were reinforced in the West Bank where scattered curfews were imposed on villages and refugee camps.

"In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, residents observed 10 minutes of silence at mid-morning in Abu Jihad's memory.

Palestinian flags and posters with photos of Abu Jihad and Arafat were put up along the highways linking Tulkarm and nearby towns, local reporters said.

In the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus, about 500 Palestinian students marched in the slain PLO leader's memory.

In Hebron, police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up a demonstration by Palestinian youths, who blocked roads with rocks and burning tyres.

At least 10 youths were arrested, Arab reporters said.

In Jerusalem, a group of masked Palestinian youths rampaged along the main shopping street, stoning police vans, breaking car windows and setting tyres ablaze.

Memorial parades and protests were reported in a half dozen

Thousands cheer Mandela in London

LONDON (R)

— Thousands of people and a host of rock music stars gathered in London's biggest stadium Monday to pay tribute to South African black leader Nelson Mandela.

The veteran anti-apartheid campaigner was greeted with tumultuous applause as he appeared on stage at Wembley Stadium with his wife Winnie.

Clearly delighted with his reception, Mandela returned the cheers with broad smiles and his familiar clenched-fist salute.

Later he was due to use the occasion to urge a worldwide television audience of up to one billion people to keep up pressure on South Africa's white minority government.

Andersson, whose secret diplomacy led to the opening of dialogue between the PLO and the United States, has in the past said that he would try to bridge the gap between the PLO and Israel.

The officials said Andersson would leave Cairo Tuesday afternoon when he is due back to Tunisia for a three-day official visit.

The contents of Arafat's Tunis talks with Andersson were not disclosed.

Andersson told reporters that Sweden was trying its best to develop the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

He said Arafat was expected in Cairo within hours.

(Continued on page 5)

Unionist Democrats aim to rally 'uncommitted' Jordanians

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Unionist Democratic Association (UDA) — a liberal political grouping seeking to become a legal party — held its seventh annual conference over the weekend and concluded it with an open meeting attended by representatives of at least seven political trends in the country.

The event is expected to mark the start of a new tradition in the political life in Jordan for in the past the existing groups had hitherto held their annual conferences underground.

Although the UDA, which

was established in 1983, has never been a clandestine organisation, the conference — which took place at the Jerusalem Hotel Saturday and Sunday — was the first time that the association publicly introduced itself as a political party.

In a short speech, UDA founder Dr. Jamal Shaer declared that his group hopes to represent mainstream Jordanians who are not part of the organised left or Islamic fundamentalist movement.

"As it stands now, the political map of Jordan includes two organised trends. The biggest is the organised Islamic coalition and the second and smaller comprises the leftist

groups, but the majority of the Jordanians in between are not organised and do not have a group to represent them," he said.

"We hope that the UDA will represent this category without taking a hostile position against either the Islamists or the left," he added.

On their party, representatives of the Islamist and the leftist trends stressed commitment to political tolerance and pluralism. Muslim Brotherhood representative Ziad Abu Ghannemeh seized the occasion to stress his group's readiness to work within a pluralist framework.

Abu Ghannemeh's remarks

implied a departure from hostile attitude expressed in the last two months by a number of Muslim Brotherhood officials against Communist activities. It was not yet clear, however, if Abu Ghannemeh's emphasis on pluralism would translate into a change in the Brotherhood's position on the legalisation of the Communist Party.

Although most of the groups present did not announce any new position, the short speeches revealed aspects of the ongoing debate on the national charter.

Mazen Saket, a pan-Arab nationalist, urged the Jordanian groups to articulate a

clear position on the charter and its objective. "Will the charter define the shape, the direction and the limitations of the future political movement?" he asked. "Will it be binding?"

In his comments, Dr. Shaer pointed out that his group had always advocated public political activities as opposed to clandestine work and the establishment of parties which are independent from an affiliation with a state or a force abroad.

Dr. Shaer, a former Baathist, has repeatedly argued in the past that parties with extensions abroad have proved to be "destructive and res-

Arab group to visit Moscow

TUNIS (R) — A delegation of Arab foreign ministers will go to Moscow next month, before the U.S.-Soviet summit, to voice their concern over the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, an Arab League source said Monday. Vladimir Polikarov, Soviet vice-minister of foreign affairs in charge of the Near East, discussed the visit with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khilji, the source said. Polikarov met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis Sunday to hand him a message about recent talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. After his meeting with Khilji, Polikarov told reporters: "The interests of all the parties and international law have to be taken into account in the Middle East peace process." Israel has said that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews could immigrate over the next five years, raising fear that many of them will settle in the Israeli-occupied territories. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have scheduled a summit in the United States for late May.

King meets with Communists

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In what was viewed as "a gesture of national reconciliation," His Majesty King Hussein met Sunday night the leadership of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) for the first time since the party's inception in the early fifties.

"We believe that the historic barrier between us has been removed," declared JCP political bureau member Issa Midanat on Monday. "The ice has been broken," he said.

The PLO and the Palestine National Council (PNC) have repeatedly called for a future confederation between the two.

The meeting followed earlier consultations between JCP party leaders and senior palace officials which had led to the participation of a communist representative in the Royal Commission entrusted with drawing up the proposed national charter to regulate political life in the country.

Analysts viewed the meeting as an expected result of the democratisation process and the general shift in the Communists' attitude in light of the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

As a leading part of the opposition, the JCP had clashed with successive Jordanian governments over policies ranging from the Jordanian alliances with the West to economic and internal policies.

The JCP was particularly active during the fifties when it had vehemently opposed American President Dwight Eisenhower's doctrine and the 1955 Baghdad pact.

The party supported the national coalition government of the late Suleiman Nabulsi and for a short period in the early seventies formed a military branch which fought alongside the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Party members including the leadership were frequently imprisoned while a 1953 law against communism stipulated a minimum of 15 years imprisonment for any Jordanian who is convicted of membership of the party or even disseminating Marxist ideas.

But since 1967 the law was sparingly used, and last January the government presented to Parliament a draft legislation to abolish the law. The legislation is now being discussed by the Legal Committee of the Lower House.

In the past the state had viewed the JCP as committed to topple the regime, something that the JCP leaders repeatedly denied.

During the November's elections, JCP candidates, who stood for parliament as individuals, stressed their adherence to the Constitution.

"We have no problem with the kind of regime that we co-exist with, whether it is a republic or a monarchy. After all there could be repressive republics," JCP Chairman Yacoub Ziadin repeatedly said during his unsuccessful bid for a parliament seat last November.

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat is due in Amman

By a Jordan Times
Staff Writer

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was expected to arrive here Monday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and the latest developments in the Middle East, informed sources said.

The sources said a high-level delegation, including several members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, would accompany the PLO chairman.

Two members of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Hourani, arrived here last week and held talks with senior Jordanian officials to prepare for Arafat's visit. The two stayed back in Amman awaiting the PLO chairman's arrival.

In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, residents observed 10 minutes of silence at mid-morning in Abu Jihad's memory.

Palestinian flags and posters

with photos of Abu Jihad and Arafat were put up along the highways linking Tulkarm and nearby towns, local reporters said.

In the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus, about 500

Palestinian students marched in the slain PLO leader's memory.

In Hebron, police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up a demonstration by Palestinian youths, who blocked roads with rocks and burning tyres.

At least 10 youths were arrested, Arab reporters said.

In Jerusalem, a group of masked Palestinian youths rampaged along the main shopping street, stoning police vans, breaking car windows and setting tyres ablaze.

Earlier, slogans were shouted by the crowd.

Askoor condemned as barbaric

in comments carried Sunday night by the Jordan News Agency.

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2 Middle East News

Riyadh rejects Iranian criticism

Saudi Arabia sticks to pilgrimage quotas

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed that it will only allow 45,000 Iranians to visit the holy city of Mecca in this year's annual Muslim pilgrimage despite bitter criticism by Tehran.

The pilgrimage quota, imposed two years ago after riots which the Saudis said were instigated by the Iranians, limits Iran's contingent to less than one-third the number that usually visited Mecca annually before 1988.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted a spokesman for the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Endowments as saying late Sunday that Saudi Arabia rejected "austere measures, haggling and pressure tactics" from Tehran to bave the quota system lifted.

The comment was prompted by the publication in Tehran last Wednesday of an open letter signed by more than half of the 270 members of Iran's parliament and demanding Saudi Arabia allow 150,000 Iranians to make this year's pilgrimage which commences in early July.

The quota system, which was backed by all other Muslim countries except Iran, allows only 1,000 out of every 1 million head of population in Islamic nations. Iran has boycotted the pilgrimage since the quota system was imposed.

Iran recently announced its population has swelled to 55 million, which under the quota system would allow it to send 55,000 pilgrims. But the Saudi statement specified only 45,000 would be permitted.

It said Riyadh "rejects any attempt to divert it from its determination to implement this decision which is fully respected by all Islamic states with the exception of Iran, which allows itself to violate this decision and break with unanimity for objectives that have become well known and exposed to the Islamic World and its nations."

It said Iranians were welcome so long as they stayed within the quota limits and headed Saudi banks on political demonstrations during the pilgrimage.

The statement warned against any attempt "to try to infringe on the security of the pilgrims of the sacred House of God, whose security is an indivisible part of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

It said the Iranian lawmakers' letter was part of "Iran's attempts to break away from the Islamic unanimity under the mantle of flase charges whenever the Haj season gets near."

The Saudis cited large-scale renovations and expansion of facilities in Mecca and the other holy city of Medina for the cutbacks.

Bhutto in Mecca to perform Umrah

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Monday on a 3-day visit to Mecca, her second out-of-season pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines.

Diplomatic sources said that Bhutto will hold talks with King Fahd. She also met with him during her visit 15 months ago to perform Umrah, as the visit to the holy shrines during off season is called. The Haj, or pilgrimage, falls at the end of June this year.

The Saudi Monarch is in Mecca for the last third of the current Muslim holy month of fasting, Ramadan.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that Bhutto's talks with Fahd will cover various issues of common interest, international developments, and especially the rising tension on the Pakistan-Indian

The Iranian leaders also refused to have Iranians led in prayers by Saudis and proclaimed that the pilgrimage rituals should include demonstrations against the United States, Israel and other countries the Iranians consider enemies of Islam.

Khomeini has pledged to export Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution to neighbouring Gulf countries and seize the leadership of the Islamic World.

Muslims fast during the day

Meanwhile Muslim business in the Middle East slackened as usual during working hours in the holy month of Ramadan this year, but consumerism was rampant after dark.

As shadows lengthened the traffic roar resumed with the faithful rushing to break their fast and feast with their families.

After enduring abstinence from food, water, and smoking, Muslims enjoyed lavish meals at home or spent heavily in restaurants on the special dishes traditional at Ramadan.

Many Muslims in the Arab World have been observing Ramadan since March 27. Others started the following day. The annual rate of self-discipline will end next week.

Muslims, aware that Muslims eat more during Ramadan than they do in other months of the year, have raised prices of fruit, meat, and vegetables to the predictable outcry of shoppers.

In Tunis, Kmar Safene, director of domestic trade at the Economy Ministry, said that food consumption increased between 10 and 20 per cent during Ramadan.

"There is a big difference between the spirit of Ramadan and the way consumers behave," the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan said Sunday.

"Some housewives admit that they go over the top in preparing meals to break the fast while traders have said sales of some foods have doubled," it added.

Fasting is one of the five sacred pillars of Islam, along with a pledge to God and the Prophet Mohammad, praying five times a day, giving alms to the poor and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Working hours in government offices and banks were cut in most Arab countries.

In very conservative Arab countries, people are shunned and sometimes punished for eating in public during fasting hours.

In Saudi Arabia people can be whipped and jailed for ignoring the fast, while in Egypt parliament is studying a draft law to punish people for infringements.

The Saudi statement quoted messages purported to have been issued by Khomeini in 1980 and 1983 urging Iranian pilgrims heading for Mecca "to avoid any act that would bring about division in Islamic ranks."

Khomeini was also quoted as ordering Iranian Muslims to pray under the leadership of Saudi preachers while in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi claims contrasted with public calls by Iranian religious leaders to seize the shrines in Mecca and Medina, which are under the custodianship of the Saudi royal family.

British hostage ends 4th year in captivity

BEIRUT (R) — Journalist John McCarthy, the longest-held British hostage in Lebanon, completed his fourth year in captivity Monday with mystery shrouding his fate.

"I've got to go. I've got a lot to do. I'll see you tomorrow," McCarthy told his friend Jill Morell in a phone call to London one day before heading for Beirut airport for a flight to England.

The so-called triggers were "nothing but capacitors ordered for use in a carbonic laser system at Baghdad's Technological University," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation.

"The (U.S.) description of the items in question... as equipment for use in nuclear purposes is untrue," he said.

The indictment issued on March 29 details an 18-month "sting" operation by U.S. customs officials that led to the seizure in Britain the day before

McCarthy's release.

On the same day McCarthy was kidnapped, three hostages, an American and two Britons, were killed by their captors to avenge the raid.

Unlike most of 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups, no-one has claimed responsibility for seizing McCarthy. No videotapes or polaroid photographs have been released showing him in captivity.

The missing hostages include eight Americans, Irishman Brian Keenan and Britons Terry Waite and Jack Mann.

American Terry Anderson of the Associated Press is the longest held victim. He was seized in a west Beirut street on March 16, 1985.

A senior Muslim fundamentalist source denied McCarthy's abduction was linked to the plight of the other Western hostages.

"McCarthy is not on the hostage list," the source said without elaborating.

Muslim security sources said this could mean McCarthy was not held by militants loyal to Iran but was detained by a Libyan-backed group.

Recent statements by Iranian leaders that the hostage crisis could end soon have raised hopes the kidnap victims might be freed this year. But a Western diplomat here believed the Iranian comments were only "test balloons."

"It is unlikely that the United States would make concessions to Iran, and it is unlikely that Tehran would back down from its demands. So there is nothing much going on at the moment on the hostages," he said.

In the long and uncertain years since his abduction, McCarthy's family campaigned tirelessly for his release.

The statement warned against any attempt "to try to infringe on the security of the pilgrims of the sacred House of God, whose security is an indivisible part of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

It said the Iranian lawmakers' letter was part of "Iran's attempts to break away from the Islamic unanimity under the mantle of flase charges whenever the Haj season gets near."

The Saudis cited large-scale renovations and expansion of facilities in Mecca and the other holy city of Medina for the cutbacks.

The statement was prompted by the publication in Tehran last Wednesday of an open letter signed by more than half of the 270 members of Iran's parliament and demanding Saudi Arabia allow 150,000 Iranians to make this year's pilgrimage which commences in early July.

The quota system, which was backed by all other Muslim countries except Iran, allows only 1,000 out of every 1 million head of population in Islamic nations. Iran has boycotted the pilgrimage since the quota system was imposed.

Iran recently announced its population has swelled to 55 million, which under the quota system would allow it to send 55,000 pilgrims. But the Saudi statement specified only 45,000 would be permitted.

It said Riyadh "rejects any attempt to divert it from its determination to implement this decision which is fully respected by all Islamic states with the exception of Iran, which allows itself to violate this decision and break with unanimity for objectives that have become well known and exposed to the Islamic World and its nations."

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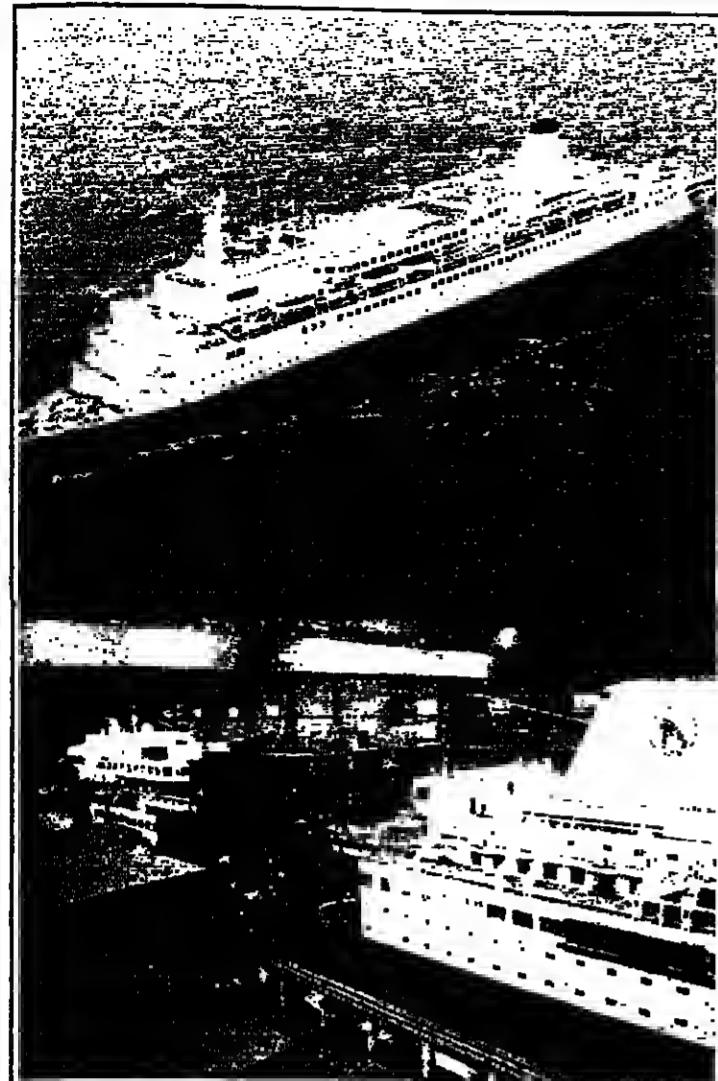
The Saudis cited large-scale renovations and expansion of facilities in Mecca and the other holy city of Medina for the cutbacks.

The statement was prompted by the publication in Tehran last Wednesday of an open letter signed by more than half of the 270 members of Iran's parliament and demanding Saudi Arabia allow 150,000 Iranians to make this year's pilgrimage which commences in early July.

The quota system, which was backed by all other Muslim countries except Iran, allows only 1,000 out of every 1 million head of population in Islamic nations. Iran has boycotted the pilgrimage since the quota system was imposed.

Iran recently announced its population has swelled to 55 million, which under the quota system would allow it to send 55,000 pilgrims. But the Saudi statement specified only 45,000 would be permitted.

<p



The American cruiser Westerdam was lengthened 40 metres amidships at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, the Federal Republic of Germany, which boasts the world's largest covered shipbuilding dock. Papenburg, on the Ems, is over 30 kilometres from the North Sea (Photo: Dpa/dpa).

Elongating ships — German way

By Eberhard Nitschke

PAPENBURG (Dpa) — When the Holland America Line's cruiser Westerdam set sail from north Germany across the Atlantic to the United States in March, it was 40 metres longer than when it had arrived in Europe. The Seatle-based line's luxury cruiser now has 747 cabins, as against its previous 552, and its crew now number 642, or 180 more than beforehand. The liner was lengthened amidships at the world's largest covered shipbuilding dock, the Meyer Werft in Papenburg. No, not in Hamburg and not in Bremen, and not even on the coast. Papenburg is a small town near the Dutch border, 30 kilometres inland on the Ems. But its jumbo dock is 270 metres long, 100 metres wide and 60 metres tall. It comfortably houses the Westerdam.

Lengthening ships to any length required is a speciality

of the Papenburg yard, which has a longstanding tradition of successful innovation. While other shipyards in the Federal Republic of Germany, not to mention other European countries, often face hard times, the Meyer Werft, nearly 200 years old, and its payroll of roughly 2,000 have orders in hand for years ahead.

New buildings and conversion work range from cruisers and passenger ferries to gas tankers and cattle freighters; a ship recently completed was built to carry 70,000 sheep. Many local suppliers rely on the Papenburg shipyard's contracts. So the authorities seem sure to continue investing heavily in widening and deepening the shipping lane in the Ems. A new lock has been built to allow ships with a draught of up to seven metres (23ft) to sail upstream to Papenburg from the Dollart, a bay in the North Sea that lies between Emden and the Dutch coastline.

Abu Jihad killing marked

(Continued from page 1)

arrested, they added.

A Swiss woman tourist was hit in the head by a rock when Palestinians, who thought she was a Jewish settler, stoned her car near Bethlehem. The woman was not seriously hurt but all the car windows were smashed. Resident of Tekoa village apologised for the attack.

The death of Abu Jihad was blamed on Israel, but the government has never acknowledged responsibility. The slaying of Abu Jihad in Tunis set off protests in 1988 that left 17 Palestinians dead.

That death toll is the highest for one day in the 28-month Palestinian uprising.

Abu Jihad was gunned down at his Tunis home April 16, 1988, by

masked commandos in an assassination that appeared to bear the hallmarks of Israel's Mossad secret service.

Israel regarded Abu Jihad as the key planner of dozens of resistance operations inside Israel. Israeli sources also stressed his role in the Palestinian revolt.

Yarmouk protests

About 150 students marched at Yarmouk University Monday to commemorate the anniversary of the killing of Abu Jihad, an official source said.

The demonstrators at Yarmouk University, about 20 kilometres north of Amman, chanted slogans in praise of Abu Jihad and in support of the Palestinian uprising.

Lithuania ready to compromise

(Continued from page 1)

would be sent to Gorbachev Monday evening and the republic's parliament, due to resume its session Tuesday, would send a separate reply.

Aigridas Brazauskas deputy prime minister and leader of the republic's Communist Party which broke links with its Soviet comrades last year, told Radio Vilnius the government was examining its options if a blockade were imposed.

He said lack of specifics had made it difficult to adopt any decisions or contingency plans.

Prunskiene's telegram, sent later in the day, said her government saw no reason to "justify a worsening of economic relations, all the more so that this would not affect Lithuania alone."

"Moreover, we do not understand the content of the economic sanctions alluded to and would not like to give false explanations to our people and to the world," the telegram said.

"Given these conditions, we see no way to resolve these questions other than Moscow urgently meeting a Lithuanian govern-

Perestroika takes roots in N. Ireland prison

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

MAGHABERRY, Northern Ireland — In the computer studies room at Maghaberry prison, a convict taps away at a braille typewriter, preparing a text for the blind.

Bobby Bates was one of the "Shankill butchers," a Protestant murder squad whose throat-cutting atrocities against Roman Catholics exceeded even Northern Ireland's savage standards.

Thirteen years into a life sentence for 10 murders, with a history of violent behaviour behind bars, 42-year-old "Basher" Bates comes across as a changed man. He works and eats alongside Catholic prisoners. He says he has embraced the Christian faith. He makes no excuses for his crimes.

The new Bobby Bates is a product of Maghaberry prison, which opened in 1986 as an alternative lockup for inmates who wants to leave the "paramilitary" milieu, learn a skill and one day return to a peaceful life outside prison.

Left behind in the older Maze prison outside Belfast are the truly committed, still segregating themselves into republican (Catholic) and loyalist (Protestant) cellblocks, still refusing to work or do anything else that could be read as acknowledging that their offences were criminal, not political.

Segregation

The government has always seen self-imposed segregation as a perpetuation of the conflict between Republicans fighting to rid Northern Ireland of British rule, and loyalists fighting to maintain the union with Britain.

Attempts to force integration have invariably met resistance.

Indeed, the one jail where tension persists is Belfast prison, where some 650 pre-trial inmates are demanding segregation. Several Belfast wardens have been beaten in recent months, and four have been fired, prosecuted or suspended since 1983 for maltreating prisoners. A mass breakout was foiled last October. Since Maghaberry opened, 164 Maze prisoners have chosen to go there. There are now about 275 prisoners in Maghaberry and 520 in the Maze.

Had Bobby Bates not moved to Maghaberry, he would probably stay in jail for the rest of his life as recommended by the judge. Now he may stand a chance of being paroled before the next century.

Maghaberry became fully operational only two years ago, so it is too early to say how successful it will be.

But the prison service feels sufficiently confident to have invited four foreign journalists to visit Maghaberry and the Maze last month and chat in private

with prisoners. The only condition was that no prison officials be identified, because they are targets for assassination.

"I think the government is anxious to get the prisoners out as much as anybody else," says the Rev. Denis Faul, a Catholic priest and human rights activist who keeps in close contact with jailers and prisoners' families.

"There are very many people in prison, both from the Protestant and the Catholic side, who would not normally be in prison ... for any type of crime other than a politically motivated crime," Faul said in an interview.

Nearly 2,800 people in Northern Ireland have died in sectarian violence since 1969. But in recent years, the violence has abated.

The number of sentenced security offenders, once forecast to reach 3,000, is about 800.

Many of them were jailed 10 or more years ago, and the government has been persuaded that at least some can be freed without risk.

Better chances

Well-behaved prisoners with release dates are eligible for a week's furlough at summer and Christmas. Some prisoners incarcerated in Britain have been moved to Northern Ireland to be closer to their families. Most prisoners on fixed sentences can ex-

"Because it's saying, forget your republicanism and become part of a criminal system," said an IRA lifer. "But we are not criminal prisoners. We are political prisoners."

'Abuses'

IRA supporters argue that the journalists' visit is a propaganda exercise, that abuses do occur in Belfast prison and at police interrogation centers.

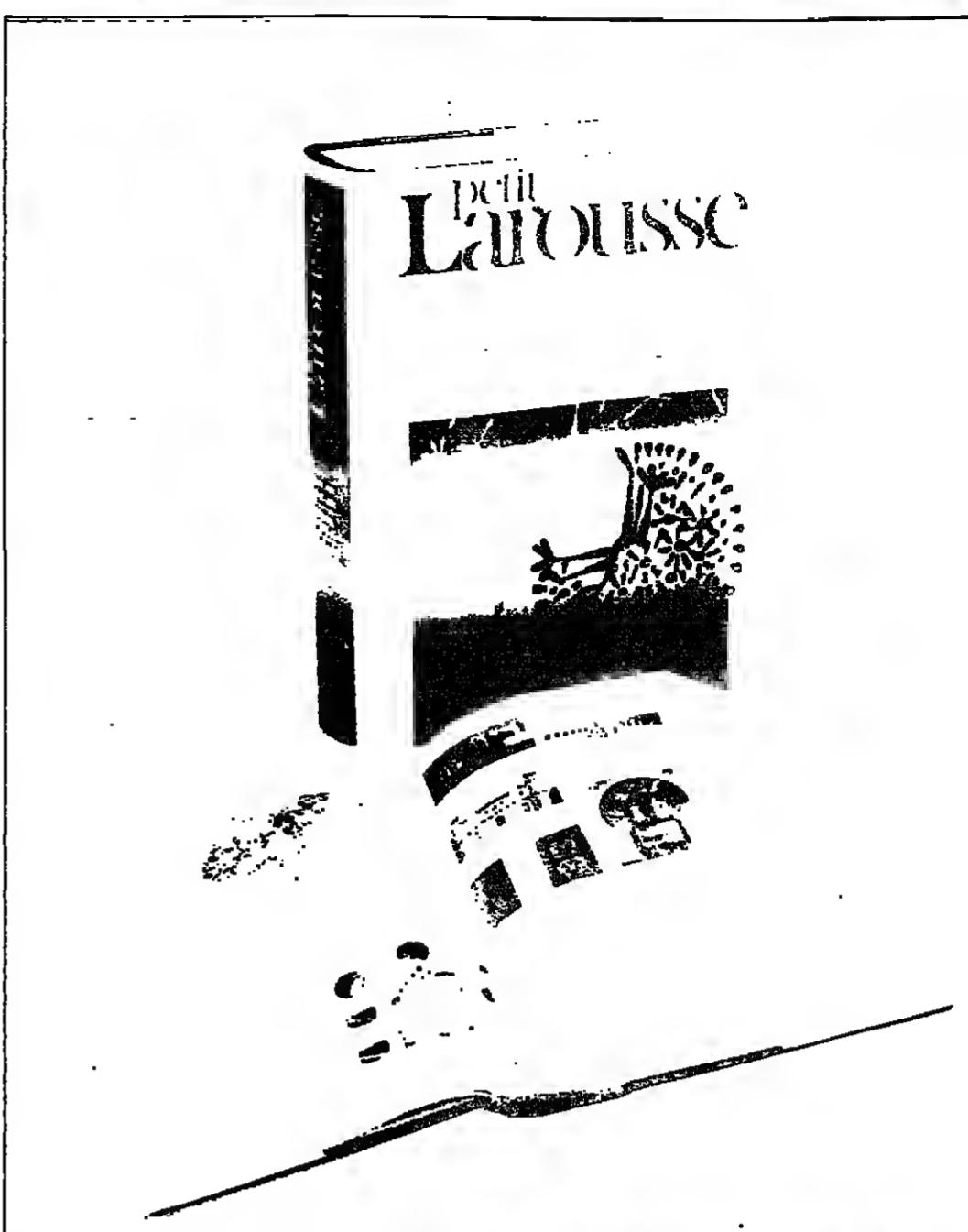
At a broader level, they maintain that Britain has no right to be in Ireland at all, let alone jail people who see themselves as freedom fighters.

"We see Northern Ireland as a concept is illegal and should never have been set up," said a Maze Republican, on whose cell wall hung portraits of Che Guevara and Christ.

The conversation kept moving back to 1983, when 38 prisoners escaped from the Maze in a mass breakout and 19 of them were quickly recaptured. One of the escapees described being beaten and set upon by dogs.

The prison service doesn't deny the abuses, but says they happened in the immediate aftermath of the breakout, and that violence was perpetrated by both sides, leaving one prison officer dead and several injured.

A spokesman said the abuses couldn't occur in the current cli-



'Let's see what Larousse says'

By Philippe Chevalier

THE ILLUSTRATED "Petit Larousse" comes off the press every year, just at the time when the new wine is pressed, and, at the end of the summer holidays, just before school begins, it holds a choice position in bookshop windows. This very French institution, with its famous slogan "Je sème à tout vent" (I sow to the four winds), recently celebrated 85 years of existence. Today, French people no longer say "Let's look it up in a dictionary", but "Let's see what it says in the Larousse."

This encyclopedic dictionary is the work of some 20 linguists and specialists in all fields of knowledge. "They keep up to date with new words, every day," Régine Lemerre, in charge of Larousse's press department, explains. "They glean words from the press, literature and television. They then make a meticulous, vigilant selection, so as not to omit anything essential, but also to avoid being caught out by fashions."

Concerning the correct usage of language, these dictionary-compilers base themselves on the recommendations of the Académie Française. In certain litigious cases, particularly when it comes to modernising spelling, they go towards cautious reform (which has more and more supporters), but still taking account of the opinions of the learned assembly.

In 1988, "Petit Larousse" beat its sales records with 1,300,000 copies sold. It must be said that year the work was deeply rejuvenated with a face-lift, its format became longer, its layout was entirely renewed. A more modern typography was adopted. Its maps were redone by computer. There were 5,500 new words, and a certain number of out-dated expressions were removed.

With some 60,000 definitions, the 1990 version of the illustrated "Petit Larousse" contains 141 additions: 77 words, 22 new meanings, and 42 proper nouns. Glasnost and Perestroika make their appearance, as well as "cryoconservation (preservation by the old, particularly with living tissues) and "le Barefoot" (for barefoot water-skiing).

The "Joujouqué", borrowed from France's Canadian cousins, makes a pretty replacement for the bizarre "Ludothèque," while the "Quimboiseur," the West Indian witchdoctor, casts his spell among the "Q's". The Larousse now authorises the verbs "bullen" (to remain idle) or "zoner" (to live on the fringe of society). One can now watch a "soap opera" in French on television or prefer a programme about "narcodollars" (profit made from drugs).

In the proper noun section new words include Akihito, the new Emperor of Japan, Maurice Allais, the famous French economist, Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Sergei Bubka, the Soviet pole-vaulter, Christian Lacroix, the French couturier, Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister and Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian racing-driver.

Steffi Graf, the young West German tennis player also gains the envied fame of being in the Petit Larousse.

"Great! My Mum is sure going to be pleased!" the young sportswoman exclaimed when she learnt she would be in it — L'Actualité en France.

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Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE meet in bid to bolster oil market

DUBAI (Agencies) — Stung by a dramatic slump in the price of crude, oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will meet Tuesday in a new OPEC move to bolster the market.

Western oil company executives say the three Gulf states are the most prominent among the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) 13 members to have exceeded their mandated production quotas, threatening a glut.

But Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, now seems to feel it is time to discuss turning down the taps to mop up some of the excess from an amply-supplied market.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is worried about the deterioration in oil prices in the world market," Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Monday, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The agency broke the news that Nazer would meet Kuwait's Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah and Mana Saeed Al Oteiba of the UAE in Jeddah Tuesday.

This followed several days of feverish telephone calls among ministers of OPEC as prices tumbled.

Last Wednesday New York futures for the U.S. benchmark crude west Texas intermediate dropped as low as \$16.25 per barrel — their weakest in 14 months and a fall of \$7 since the start of the year.

They then rallied a little on reports that OPEC might act.

Total OPEC output has recently run at between 23.5 and 24 million barrels per day (BPD), exceeding underlying demand by as much as two million BPD, market analysts say.

Supplies in the United States are so high that storage space is running out.

While some nations such as



Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah



Mana Saeed Al Oteiba



Hisham Nazer

Saudi Arabia needs to persuade Kuwait and Abu Dhabi to cut production and it has to decide to control production. But can you see that happening?

Gulf-based industry sources said reluctance among the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, to cut output stems from fears of losing market share.

The SPA said the Jeddah meeting would "review the recent drop in oil prices."

Earlier speculation had centred on the possibility of emergency talks involving all 13 OPEC members ahead of a scheduled meeting in Geneva May 25. But Gulf-based analysts said Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE were apparently against that.

Mari Buglass, an analyst in London with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton, said a full gathering might just result in "verbal fistfights" over allegations of over-production.

Analysts in the Gulf meanwhile said that the market might look firmer by the end of May, if there are some production cuts soon and ahead of the seasonal rise in gasoline demand during the northern hemisphere summer

start of the year.

They cannot change the very short term fundamentals. But they can signal that some production cuts are to come and perhaps persuade people to absorb higher stocks."

An Easter Monday holiday muted European reaction but one trader reckoned that quotes ticked up by perhaps 25 cents in response to the Saudi statement.

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IBM's first-quarter profit rises to \$1.04b

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. said Monday that its earnings rose to \$1.04 billion in the first quarter, a 9.2 per cent rise and unexpectedly good results that cheered Wall Street.

The world's number one computer maker cited good demand across its product line.

The Armonk, New York company said first-quarter revenues rose 11.4 per cent to \$14.19 billion from \$12.73 billion in the year-earlier period.

IBM reported period earnings of \$1.81 a share, compared with

at \$1.11 in early trading on the New York stock exchange.

Akers said the company was focusing investments to take advantage of opportunities in the industry and streamlining operations while improving products.

Industry analysts had forecast that IBM would pare as many as 15,000 jobs by year end in an effort to boost profits.

The company had previously been vague about its earnings prospects for 1990, after reporting disappointing earnings for the fourth quarter and for all of 1989 largely because of a \$2.42 billion restructuring charge.

Wall Street apparently agreed, as investors rushed in to snap up IBM shares. They were up \$3.85

at \$111 in early trading on the New York stock exchange.

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Three-tiered price system possible in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — Prices of Soviet goods, to be raised as the country moves towards a market economy, are to be grouped into three categories with varying degrees of state control, a senior official has said.

State Prices Committee Chairman Vyacheslav Senchagov said the increases would begin at some point this year but in different phases to protect low-income groups.

In an interview with the Communist Party daily Pravda, Senchagov said the state would continue to set prices for key commodities such as oil, gas, coal and ferrous metals but these would take account of currently higher prices on world markets.

"The state will retain, quite naturally, the right to establish prices for basic goods which have an effect on the conditions in which industry operates and on the level of retail prices," he told the daily.

A second group, he said, would be subject to "regulated prices" — which could rise and fall within prescribed limits. He did not specify which goods these would cover, but said fluctuations would depend on productivity and the relation between supply and demand.

The last group, also unspecified, would be subject to free prices.

Price rises are part of the economic revamp that President Mikhail Gorbachev has placed at the top of his policy agenda, with detailed plans expected to be announced soon. His policy-making presidential council meets this weekend.

On Thursday, Pavel Bunich, chairman of the parliament's commission on economic reform, said that prices could double within a year and suggested that 70 per cent of the state sector could be denationalised.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE telecom firm reports profit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) telecommunications firm Etisalat reported a 17.5 per cent rise in net profits for 1989. Etisalat said in a statement Saturday that profits rose to 787 million dirhams (\$214 million) from 669.9 million (\$182 million) in 1988. It announced a cash dividend of 597 million dirhams (\$157 million), amounting to 40 per cent of its capital of 1.49 billion (\$407 million). Etisalat has established in 1976 and has since taken 40 per cent of the firm public. Its monopoly of telecommunications services has allowed it to stay highly profitable while cutting fees to subscribers.

Turkey finds oil in new well

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has struck oil in a new well near the southeastern town of Kahita, State Minister Mehmet Kecceler said Monday. "The Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) has found oil in a new well which will produce 1,200 barrels per day," Kecceler told the opening session of a Turkish Petroleum Congress. Turkey, which consumes 21.5 million tonnes of oil a year, produced 2.88 million tonnes of crude, mainly in the southeast areas bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria, in 1989. More than 2,000 people have been killed in the southeast since the Marxist Kurdish People's Party (PKK) launched its independence campaign six years ago. Kahita is outside the PKK's normal theatre of operations. About 25 oil firms are currently operating in Turkey, most of them affiliates of foreign companies, including N.V. Turke Shell and Arco Turkey Inc. Chevron International LTD (Turkey) is likely to decide next month whether to go ahead with a \$10.3 million search for oil in the southwest near the Iraqi frontier, the sources said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Reuters

TOKYO — Tokyo share prices closed broadly down, but off their lows, on index-linked and general selling in scant trading. An anaemic yen and the Easter holidays overseas kept volume low. The Nikkei Index shed 750.74 points, or 2.57 per cent, to close at 28,463.18.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Industrial Index inched up 5.75 points to close at 1,530.97 because of a last-minute rally in selective index-linked stocks, brokers said.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange was closed to enable stockbrokers to complete business deals done over the past two weeks. Trading resumes Tuesday. The Bombay Index slumped 32.38 points Thursday to 748.79.

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones Industrial Index moved ahead more than 27 points in the first 40 minutes of trading to 2,779 in reaction to IBM's higher-than-expected first quarter net. IBM and other technology stocks led the rally.

The share markets in Sydney, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Zurich, Paris and London were all closed for the Easter Monday holiday.

Saudi Arabia, Japan move closer to oil deals

TOKYO (R) — The idea of Saudi Arabia invading Japan's downstream oil market once evoked image of a desert marauder here. Now it conjures visions of a long-sought oasis.

Fear that oil reserves outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are drying up is making Japanese refiners eager to secure stable crude supplies from the Gulf, oil industry officials said.

Japanese refiners are scrambling to strike direct deals with Saudi Arabia, which claims the world's largest proven oil reserves, as concern grows about possible shortages later this decade, they said.

Direct deals refer to long-term

deals struck directly with producers. The Saudi Oil Ministry and MITI are seeking a reciprocal arrangement through which Saudi Arabia offers stable oil supply in exchange for a secure market and downstream participation.

World crude oil prices tumbled last week, but Japanese refinery officials say they are looking further into the future.

Cosmo Oil Company Ltd started buying crude oil under a direct deal with Saudi Arabia this month following the lead of Idemitsu Kosan Company Ltd which signed a term contract last October.

Oil industry sources said Nippon Oil Company Ltd may consider contracting to buy directly from Saudi Arabia in the future. It started lifting 80,000 barrels per day (BPD) through Caltex Petroleum Corp. a 50/50 joint venture between majors Chevron Corp. and Texaco Inc.

Saudi Arabia is seeking a joint-venture partner in Asia to refine its own crude and sell petrochemical products.

One of Japan's problems is that it has no single company able to match the functions of oil majors, which explore for, develop, produce, transport, refine and market oil.

"The Saudis are not expecting a quick conclusion. First they want to make good friends who can guide them into the downstream market," a source familiar with Saudi Arabian business said.

Saudi Arabia's joint venture with Texaco to refine and sell oil in the U.S., called Star Enterprise, posted revenues of \$6.3 billion in its first year ended last December.

Saudi Arabia wants to launch similar operations in Japan, oil sources said. It hopes to reach basic agreement with MITI by the end of the year to pave the way for Saudi investment in a refinery, said an oil industry manager who visited Riyadh earlier this year.

But MITI is now focusing more on long-term supply security, especially since experts point to the increasing role of OPEC producers as stable suppliers.

An official visit to Tokyo by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer in January gave impetus to a strengthening of ties between the world's largest oil exporter and the world's second-largest oil consumer.

MITI officials say they are speeding up efforts to forge closer links with Gulf producers, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the

next century.

Indonesia set to get same amount of aid

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, saddled with one of the biggest foreign debts in the developing world, can expect another massive infusion of aid this year, visiting Netherlands Development Minister Jan Pronk said Saturday.

"Indonesia has really taken off as a developing country on the path to sustainable economic growth... everybody agrees that Indonesia during the last couple of years had a very good economic performance," he told reporters at the end of a nine-day visit.

He also assayed concern his country might tie aid to Jakarta's human-rights record by signing new loans that had been delayed after an upsurge in the Dutch parliament over Indonesia's execution in February of four long-term prisoners.

The four had been on death row for more than 20 years for their role in an abortive coup in 1965.

Pronk chairs Indonesia's Donor Club of Industrial Countries and International Agencies, the intergovernmental group on Indonesia, which will meet in June to decide on aid for the current financial year, which began in April.

He said, "the total sum of aid to be pledged... will amount to about the same amount as last year (a record \$4.3 billion) or perhaps... a tiny bit higher."

More will be in project aid while special assistance, untied aid for balance-of-payments support, will be below last year's \$1.8 billion, he said without giving figures.

The World Bank last year pre-

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1990

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 17, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when promises made by, or to you, are very apt to be broken beyond the control of anyone involved, so don't be hard either on yourself or others if conditions change.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be alert early to all kinds of interesting new situations that arise and bring opportunity of advancement, then avoid argument over money.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to get a better perspective where you are headed in your practical affairs, then don't get into personalities; later charm all about you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contract conservative and unconventional outsiders for ideas to further your worldly aims, then avoid secret anger but later be with good character.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Driving towards the biggest plan of security you can conceive can bring you real progress in that direction but don't waste time on frivolities.

ARIQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Older men in prominent positions in all walks of life today see your best points and will back your wishes so don't stay home and fuss about conditions.

PISCES: February 20 to March 20) You can take the best from the best and add modern and current conditions so that your environment is much improved but don't wander about aimlessly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Private conferences with all sorts of influential men can bring

you solutions to your problems, avoid a prejudiced newcomer: tonight do what mate appreciates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Letting good friends know your basic personal goals gives them the chance to support your efforts, then don't make financial commitment; later join fine friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put yourself in a position to get favours from those in positions of power and you make headway, then avoid a bumptious partner; later consult fine friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be alert to new outlets by which you can zoom ahead and don't get bogged down in a discussion about usual duties; tonight to what mate most enjoys.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Driving towards the biggest plan of security you can conceive can bring you real progress in that direction but don't waste time on frivolities.

ARIQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Older men in prominent positions in all walks of life today see your best points and will back your wishes so don't stay home and fuss about conditions.

PISCES: February 20 to March 20) You can take the best from the best and add modern and current conditions so that your environment is much improved but don't wander about aimlessly.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MART GIANTS ARBBE
BLDR DILAY LILIANA
DILYFACILE IBBIE
LILYFACILE PHILIPSTON
VITI ABEL LED
SIT

Moses eyes another Olympic gold medal

NEW YORK (R) — Twice Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses will turn 35 years of age in August but he says age is not about to slow down his chase for more gold in the 1992 Barcelona games.

"I know I can still do it and there is no real reason to quit," Moses told Reuters during a recent promotional tour for this summer's Goodwill Games in Seattle.

After dominating the 400-metre hurdles for a decade, Moses settled for bronze at the 1988 Seoul Games and then quit racing all of last year to pursue a graduate university degree, prompting speculation that he was retiring from competition.

"People think I'm retired because of my age, but I've never really mentioned it," the American said. "I've been in shape for 20 years and age doesn't really matter that much and I could walk away anytime and be satisfied."

Ego, however, is still a motivating force.

"The challenge is running against guys who feel you are over the hill. They have always felt because of my age they were going to catch up, so the challenge is to continue to trample on these guys the way I have," said Moses.

Moses resumed training in November with solitary daily workouts at the University of California at Irvine. Now concentrating on interval training before stepping up to speed drills, Moses feels no need to rush back.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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A LESSON WELL LEARNED

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	♦ K 10 9	♦ A 10 9 8 2	♦ A 3 2	♦ K Q
EAST	♦ 7 5	♦ Q 6		
SOUTH	♦ A Q 6 4 3	♦ J 10 9 8 4	♦ 10	♦ A 8 3
WEST	♦ K 4 3	♦ Q 6		
The bidding:	♦ 1 ♠	♦ 2 ♠	♦ 4 ♠	♦ 5 ♠
South West North East	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠ Pass	2 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ Pass	4 ♠ Pass	5 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ Pass	4 ♠ DBL	4 NT	6 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass	4 ♠ DBL	4 NT	5 ♠ Pass	6 ♠ Pass
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
5 ♠ Pass	6 ♠ Pass			
Pass	Pass			

Opening lead: Five of ♦
We have remarked before on how often lesson hands turn up at the table. This hand is from the recent Fall North American Championships.

North-South were playing two-over-one responses as a game force. Thus, North's raise to three spades showed a good hand—a jump to four spades would have been a sign-off. After East's lead-directing could claim his slam.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spanish Embassy in Amman has a vacancy with the following characteristics:

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Real Madrid clinches league title, turns sights on European Cup

Reuters

Real Madrid predictably wrapped up their fifth consecutive Spanish soccer league title at the weekend and immediately turned their thoughts to lifting the European Cup next season.

Moses won his first Olympic gold in the 1976 Montreal Games where he also set his first world record. He added the 1984 gold medal in the Los Angeles Games and his 1983 time of 47.02 seconds still stands as the world record. Until he was beaten by compatriot Danny Harris in 1987, Moses enjoyed a streak of 122 consecutive race victories over a 10-year span—a record unparalleled at any distance in modern track.

"The overall philosophy is a three-year programme. This year is not major," said Moses. "Next year I'm in peak condition and the following year is the Olympic year. That is what I'm really looking forward to."

Moses' win has been more of an expectation than a glorious achievement for Real, and if the club's Sunday night celebrations following their title-clinching 0-0 draw at Real Valladolid were somewhat muted, the European obsession is party to blame.

Both players and British coach John Toshack accepted that they had been certain of winning their 25th championship for some time after opening a nine-point lead over second-placed Atletico Madrid several weeks ago.

Toshack, in his first year in charge at the club, said: "It is not as if there has been another team in a close finish."

"Madrid have proven they have some players who are among the best. We have worked very

seriously. We'll rest for a few days and start planning next season... with the hope of repeating this victory," he added.

Another title would surpass the record five-win sequence by Alfredo Di Stefano's team between 1960-65, repeated in 1975-80. But Toshack and club president Ramon Mendoza would sooner emulate that side's feat of winning the European Cup in 1966—the last time the club lifted the trophy.

"We shall have to keep on fighting for the European title," said Mendoza.

Captain Miguel added: "We all think of the European Cup, and to get there you first have to win the league."

Another British exile left an indelible mark in the French championship race as champions Marseille climbed above Bordeaux at the top of the league on an Easter weekend which saw most European leagues play Friday and Saturday.

England winger Chris Waddle scored both goals in Marseille's

2-0 home over Bordeaux Saturday which left the Mediterranean club a point clear with a game in hand and favourites to take their second consecutive title.

Marseille will be hoping Waddle can perform as well in Wednesday's European Cup semifinal second leg against Benfica in Portugal where they take a 2-1 lead.

European Cup holders A.C. Milan, who take a 1-0 first leg lead to Bayern Munich on Wednesday, remained top of the Italian soccer league on goal difference from Napoli who reduced the margin to three goals with a 3-0 win against Bari Saturday.

A.C. Milan beat Sampdoria 1-0 Friday in their final home game of the season.

Although they were due to play

Bari at their San Siro stadium, work on relaying the pitch for the World Cup has forced them to switch the last match to Bologna.

They visit Verona next Sunday while Napoli travel to Bologna and end with a home game against Lazio.

Waldegaard has competed 17

Waldegaard wins Safari Rally for fourth time

NAIROBI (R) — Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden, driving a Toyota Celica, overcame exceptionally muddy conditions to win the Kenya Safari Rally for the fourth time Monday.

Jahnu Kanckkunen of Finland finished second, 38 minutes behind Waldegaard in a Lancia Delta Integrale and Mikael Ericsson of Sweden, in another Toyota, came in third, nearly two hours behind the winner.

Waldegaard, winner in 1977, 1984 and 1986, said: "It was the toughest rally ever because of the weather. The roads were tougher. There was more mud than ever, but funny enough, there was not as much rain as expected."

Waldegaard has competed 17

times in this six-day 4,000-kilometre rally, one of the toughest in the world, and said he planned to return next year.

"I would love to come back for another rally. Why not take the record for the most wins?" he said.

Kanckkunen said he was just happy to have finished—only 10 of the 58 starters survived.

Spaniard Carlos Sainz, making his Safari debut in a Toyota Celica, was fourth and Kenjiro Shinozuka of Japan fifth in a Mitsubishi Galant.

The best-placed Subaru Legacy, making its first world championship appearance, was sixth and driven by Kenyan Jim Heathcote Hayes.

Four Legacies dropped out be-

cause of mechanical problems, mainly associated with overheating.

Heather Hayes himself came close to disaster Sunday when a fire broke out under the bonnet of his car. The blaze was caused by a split oil pipe. The crew extinguished the fire and fitted a replacement part dropped from a plane.

Rudi Stohl of Austria in an Audi Quattro passed Kenya's Patrick Njiru in a Subaru Legacy on the final 365-kilometre stage from Nakuru in the Rift Valley to Nairobi to finish seventh.

But Njiru, the top-placed half-Kenyan driver and a local hero, was assured of a big welcome for managing eighth position.

Jahangir aims for record ninth British Open title

LONDON (R) — World number one Jahangir Khan is just five matches away from fulfilling his lifelong ambition of winning the British Open Squash Championship for a record ninth successive title.

The Pakistani has not been beaten in the sport's most prestigious tournament since he lost in the 1981 final to Australian Geoff Hunt, whose record eight victories Khan equalled last year.

Jahangir went unbeaten for an astonishing five years and seven months after his defeat by Hunt before losing to New Zealander Ross Norman, whom he is scheduled to meet in the Open.

England number nine Jamie Hickox is Jahangir's first round opponent when the top players go into action Wednesday, but his most difficult match in his half of the draw is likely to be against Australian Chris Dittmar, who is projected to meet in the semi-final.

Dittmar, the number three

Jahangir's domination.

New Zealand's Susan Devoy is seeking her seventh consecutive women's title and is scheduled for a semifinal meeting with Lisa Opie, the Briton she has beaten in two finals.

Opie was runner up on four occasions during the 1980s, but the seedings predict that Devoy's opponent in the 1990 final will be Australian Danielle Drady, the vastly improved girlfriend of Rodney Martin.

Drady is expected to come through to a semifinal against Martine Le Moignan. Opie's draw, which includes two other Australians, is the opposite of the draw.

Surprisingly, the younger Pakistani has never won the British Open title but, should he overcome the very considerable challenge from Robertson or Martin, his remarkable athleticism and super fitness will represent a very serious threat to

Jugoplastika go for second European basketball trophy

ZARAGOZA, Spain (R) — Yugoslavia's Jugoplastika aim to remain men's European club basketball champions this week, knowing it could be a long time before they win another major trophy.

The split team could be sadly depleted next year. Dino Radja and Toni Kukoc, two prospects involved in last year's unexpected champion's cup final victory over two-time winners Maccabi Tel Aviv, are expected to look for more lucrative contracts.

The pair are set to play outside Yugoslavia next season unless Jugoplastika can find more than a million dollars to keep them. The team's experienced captain, Dusko Ivanovic, is also tipped to leave and join an Italian or a Spanish team.

The Yugoslav side meet French champions Limoges Tuesday, while Barcelon's of Spain play Greece's Aris Salomiki in the other semifinal on the same day. The final is Thursday.

With home advantage, Barcelon are highly favoured to win for the first time. The Catalan side was top of the quarter-final groups with a record of 12 wins, including two over Aris, against only two defeats.

After losing in the 1981 final to Squibb Canti of Italy, they have a chance to emerge from the shadow of Spanish rivals Real Madrid, who have a record seven titles in the competition.

Barcelona's game is based on strong defence and fast counter-attack. Their main asset is free-scoring "Epi" Juan Antonio

together with American Audie Norris, excellent under the bas-

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A position as part time Embassy Receptionist is declared vacant as of July 1, 1990.

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Requirements: University education at undergraduate level, fluency in Arabic and English, efficiency in typing, knowledge of third language and word processing is an advantage. Applicants must have previous experience of similar work, preferably with a foreign embassy or international organisation. Applicants must have a representative personality, be apt for teamwork and be tolerant to stress.

Serious candidates are invited to apply in writing with a C.V. and photo to Department of Personnel, P.O. Box 830536, Amman, not later than May 1, 1990.

Colombia faces Mexico today

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Colombian soccer team, whose World Cup build-up has been disrupted by death threats, return to the United States for a friendly against Mexico Tuesday.

Colombia's preparations for the June finals were halted briefly earlier this year after a group threatened to kill players, coaches and journalists unless the national squad stopped including players from four clubs which it said were linked to drug-traffickers.

Since then the national team

have played all their matches in the United States for greater security.

The Colombians' major concern for Tuesday is to find the goalscoring form that saw them win their qualifying group against Paraguay and Ecuador and a two-leg playoff against Israel to qualify for their first World Cup finals since 1962.

They failed to score against fellow World Cup finalists Uruguay and the Soviet Union, and managed only a 1-0 win against Mexican club side Chivas in Miami next Saturday. They will also participate in a three-day tournament in Chicago in May before flying to Italy.

Colombia, in the same World Cup group as West Germany, Yugoslavia and United Arab Emirates, play the United States in Miami next Saturday. They will also participate in a three-day tournament in Chicago in May before flying to Italy.

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Nepal king dismisses premier, dissolves National Assembly

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's King Birendra bowed to a two-month opposition campaign Monday, opening the way to multi-party democracy by abolishing the main elements of the country's partyless political system.

Birendra, one of the world's few absolute monarchs, made his dramatic concessions in a royal proclamation he read on radio after a campaign in which at least 100 people were killed.

The king, who just one week ago legalised political parties banned for 30 years, said he had dismissed his prime minister and dissolved the National Assembly.

He also announced the dissolution of the six organisations which underpin the partyless system of councils, or Panchayats. All candidates for Panchayat elections must belong to one of the six organisations which represent special interest groups.

Birendra also dissolved the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee which oversaw the whole system.

The concessions appeared to go most of the way towards meeting the demands of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which wanted a multi-party system and a constitutional monarchy.

MRD sources, who took part in marathon talks with the government that ended just before

dawn in an apparent deadlock, said they were sure opposition leader Ganesh Man Singh would be asked to form the next government.

The MRD had demanded it be allowed to form an interim administration that would pave the way for multi-party elections.

Birendra, who has already promised a constitutional reform commission, made no comment on his own future role.

The king said Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand had been dismissed but would stay on as caretaker premier. He also dissolved the 140-member Rashtriya Panchayat (National Assembly), 28 of whose members he nominated himself with the rest directly elected.

Ganesh Man Singh, 75, leader of the Nepali Congress Party and one potential premier, had been in office just 10 days and MRD sources said it was he who persuaded the king to issue Monday's proclamation.

They said that after a 15-hour meeting with opposition leaders ended just before dawn, Chand talked with his four-min cabinet and prepared a petition which he took to the king.

Until April 6, Birendra and his

would be in a position to shape the government even if he did not become prime minister.

The MRD campaign started on Feb. 18 with demonstrations in many of the impoverished kingdom's towns that appeared to take the government by surprise.

The bloodiest day of the campaign was on April 6 when at least 50 people were killed by soldiers who opened fire on thousands of demonstrators marching on the royal palace.

That day's violence produced Birendra's first major concession when he legalised political parties.

Chand, whose predecessor was sacked over the shootings, had been in office just 10 days and MRD sources said it was he who persuaded the king to issue Monday's proclamation.

They said that after a 15-hour meeting with opposition leaders ended just before dawn, Chand talked with his four-min cabinet and prepared a petition which he took to the king.

Demonstrations went on until just before the king made his proclamation Monday. A crowd that at one time numbered about 15,000 young radicals surrounded the building where Chand was holding talks with the opposition.

They stoned his car when he tried to leave and later burst into the compound and smashed official cars. The demonstrators let him go only MRD leaders had asked them to go home.

Then Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and his colleagues argued that the Pan-

chayat system was democratic and suited Nepal, a patchwork of tribes living in inaccessible mountain areas.

They said a multi-party system would give giant neighbours India and China an easy way to influence the politics of a country that had to struggle hard to maintain a credible independence.

The Nepali Congress Party has close links with India's Congress Party which has ruled that country for all but three years since independence in 1947, although it is currently in opposition.

The Nepali Communist group allied with Congress in the MRD have links to China.

Nepal's factions had operated fairly openly for most of the 30 years during which parties were banned. They drew their supporters, mostly urban, on to the streets in large numbers during the campaign.

Demonstrations went on until just before the king made his proclamation Monday. A crowd that at one time numbered about 15,000 young radicals surrounded the building where Chand was holding talks with the opposition.

They stoned his car when he tried to leave and later burst into the compound and smashed official cars. The demonstrators let him go only MRD leaders had asked them to go home.

Until April 6, Birendra and his government had shown no signs of giving into the MRD's demands, saying it contained "anti-national elements" and had been taken over by Communist extremists.

Then Prime Minister Marich

100 die in Indian train fire

PATNA, India (Agencies) — At least 100 people were feared killed in a fire that swept through two crowded coaches of a commuter train near the north India city of Patna Monday, a senior official said.

District Magistrate S.K. Sharma told reporters 80 bodies had been pulled out of the two badly burned coaches and more were still inside.

A senior railway official said rescue workers believed a cylinder of gas used in welding exploded and caused the inferno.

The train caught fire near a railroad crossing eight kilometres from the centre of Patna, the capital of Bihar, one of India's poorest and most populous states.

A large number of people gathered at the site, hampering rescue work and forcing police to set up loudspeakers and issue appeals for people to leave the area, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, soldiers searched door-to-door for Muslim militants Monday, the 10th consecutive day of an around-the-clock curfew banning civilians from leaving their homes.

In one district the troops were seen forcing a group of men to perform a crouching, knee-bend exercise with heavy stones on their backs.

"None of them are militants," said one witness. "But this will make them militants. We thought the Indian army was disciplined, but we were wrong."

He and other witnesses, all of

whom spoke on condition of anonymity, said they were too far away to know what provoked the troops' action.

The insurgency in the Kashmir Valley has claimed at least 270 lives since the government cracked down on the Muslim movement on Jan. 20. Most of the deaths came in confrontations between security forces and the militants.

Since then, Srinagar has been under tight military control.

On Monday, the government announced a two-hour lifting of curfew in the Civil Lines district, which has many shops, but witnesses said most shops were closed because their owners lived in areas where the curfew was not lifted.

In one district the troops were seen forcing a group of men to perform a crouching, knee-bend exercise with heavy stones on their backs.

"None of them are militants," said one witness. "But this will make them militants. We thought the Indian army was disciplined, but we were wrong."

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Column 10

Miss Norway becomes Miss Universe

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Norwegian Moira Grudt — known as "the beauty queen from Hell" — won the Miss Universe crown Sunday, beating 71 contestants from around the world. Grudt, a 19-year-old redhead from a town called Hell in northern Norway, beat Miss USA Carole Gist into second place. Miss Colombia, Liseth Macchia, was third. Grudt, whose measurements were given as 34-24-35 inches (86-60-88 cm.), will travel the world on behalf of the competition and received \$200,000 in gifts. The other seven semi-finalists were from India, Mexico, Turkey, Chile, Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, and Venezuela. The organizers said 600 million television viewers in 30 countries had watched the Miss Universe show. The women modelled in swimsuits, evening dress, and traditional costumes for a 12-member panel of judges. The Soviet Union, competing for the first time, was represented by Eva Stalbovskaya. "I will try to make girls believe this is more than a beauty contest, and that you have to be something more than empty inside to win," said the 19-year-old Miss Universe.

It was not known whether Takeshita and Roh discussed the proposed visit.

The presidential side, requesting anonymity, said Roh told Takeshita that bad feelings still existed among Koreans over "two unfortunate incidents" and the feelings would be diluted if the two governments settled the issue.

The two incidents referred to

the 1592 Japanese invasion of Korea and Japan's 35-year colonial rule of Korea which ended in 1945 at the end of World War II.

The former prime minister is

visiting South Korea as the

Japanese president of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union.

Leaping cow crushes governor's car

ANKARA (R) — A cow destined for a Turkish slaughter house leapt from a lorry onto the roof of a car carrying a provincial governor, crushing it and injuring the occupants, the popular daily *Gumusayin* said Monday. The governor of Western Mardin province Erol Calci, his wife, driver and security guard suffered slight injuries but the car was almost a total loss, it said.

The foundation released statements from several world leaders who praised the decision to give the awards.

— Bob Brown, an Australian physician who gave up his medical practice to help found the Tasmanian Wilderness Society and prevent the damming of one of Australia's last free-flowing rivers.

— Janet Gibson, a biologist and vice-president of the Belize Audubon Society who led the fight to protect a 200-kilometre-long barrier reef off the coast of the Central American country.

— Lois Gibbs, a housewife

who sounded the alarm over the dumping of 22,000 tonnes of toxic waste in New York state's Love Canal. Her work resulted in the evacuation of 810 families from their homes and inspired grassroots environmental campaigns elsewhere in the United States.

The foundation released statements from several world leaders who praised the decision to give the awards.

— As the governments of the world join together in addressing the cumulative impacts of man's activities on the planet, it is important that we not lose sight of the positive role individuals can play," said President George Bush.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said: "We all have a responsibility to ensure that the delicate balance of nature on our planet is left intact for our children and our grandchildren."

— Neighbour Buttenweiser, who discovered him bleeding, put his severed penis in a bottle of water and drove it and him to hospital.

Durazi said he took three hours to sew the penis on again in "The organ is functioning well," he added. "He is much better now, talking and smiling with his friends."

3 children kill wife-beating father

SEOUL (R) — Three school children stabbed and clubbed to death their drunken father who was beating his wife, police said. Kang Kyu-Son, 40, was knocked down with baseball bat wielded by his ten-year-old son as he was battering his wife, and was then attacked by his two daughters aged 12 and 13. The elder daughter stabbed Kang in the throat and chest seven times with a kitchen knife while the younger one hit him with a chopping board and a pan, police said.

N. Ireland drunk drivers face tough crackdown

BELFAST (R) — Convicted drunk drivers in Northern Ireland will have to pass another driving test before being allowed back behind the wheel and then drive at a restricted speed for a year, displaying a special car plate.

"There are too many people who cannot separate the throttle from the bottle," Northern Ireland Transport Minister Peter Bottomley said on announcing the tough proposals Thursday. The special car plate will designate that the driver is limited to a top speed of 72 kilometres per hour. Traffic accidents in Northern Ireland account annually for twice as many deaths as the province's sectarian and political conflict. The death toll on the roads averages about 200 a year. Bottomley, who plans to have the new restrictions in force by Christmas, said: "We don't want to stop people driving. We don't want to stop people drinking. We just don't want them to do the two together."

Nordic countries urge more states to accede to Non-Proliferation Treaty

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — In January and February, Nordic diplomats approached the countries which are not signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to encourage them to accede to it. These approaches were made in the context of the fourth review conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which is to be held in Geneva from Aug. 20 to Sept. 14, 1990.

In according to the NPT, non-nuclear-weapon states undertake not to acquire such weapons.

To date, 140 countries are signatories to the NPT. However, the Nordic countries are con-

cerned that several major countries have still not signed the treaty. This applies to nuclear-weapon states such as France and China and several threshold states which are considered to have the capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons.

In the Nordic countries' view, it is of great importance that the review conference should result in a confirmation and a reinforcement of the authority of the treaty. Confirmation and reinforcement of the treaty are particularly vital in view of the fact that the contracting parties are to take a decision on an extension of the treaty in 1995.

The Nordic countries intend to

present a memorandum to the NPT's fourth review conference, giving their views on the NPT and its importance for international security.

The NPT is one of the most important international arms control agreements and the most far-reaching. Since the NPT came into force in 1970, no non-nuclear-weapon state party to it has acquired nuclear weapons.

In the treaty, nuclear-weapon states (the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union) have pledged to negotiate on nuclear-weapon disarmament and a stop to the nuclear arms race.

We publicly reject before the Colombian people the conduct of Pablo Escobar because it goes against the aim of our struggle, which is to be tried in our fatherland," it said.

The statement's authenticity could not be checked.

The Medellin cartel supplies much of the cocaine consumed in the United States and Escobar is the Colombian drug baron most wanted for trial in U.S. courts.

Police say it is Escobar who is responsible for a recent upsurge in the drug war, which began last August when the government cracked down on the booming illegal drug trade.

Twenty-one people were killed in a car bomb blast last Wednesday and 29 policemen have been shot dead this month in the cocaine capital of Medellin.

The statement said Escobar ordered the car attack and a planned bombing in Bogota two weeks ago.

Colombian drug barons divided over war

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's drug trafficking barons appear to be deeply divided over tactics of bombing and assassination that have killed more than 240 people in an eight-month war against the state.

A statement ostensibly issued by "the extraditables" — a shadowy group of drug lords wanted in the United States — blamed Pablo Escobar, the reputed leader of the Medellin cocaine cartel, for a recent wave of violence and rejected his actions.

"We extraditables do not agree with the terrorist acts which Pablo Escobar has been ordering indiscriminately and in his personal capacity," said the statement, sent to a Bogota radio station on Sunday night.

"We publicly reject before the Colombian people the conduct of Pablo Escobar because it goes against the aim of our struggle, which is to be tried in our fatherland," it said.

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6 people win environmental prizes

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A Kenyan who walked thousands of miles to save black rhinos and a Hungarian writer fired for challenging plans to dam the Danube River were among six people named Monday to share a \$360,000 environmental prize.

The newly-established \$60,000 individual awards are to be given annually by the Goldman Environmental Foundation, founded by two San Francisco philanthropists, Richard and Rhoda Goldman.

The winners, nominated by 15 leading international environmental groups, were:

— Michael Werikie, who has walked thousands of kilometres across Africa and Europe since 1982 to raise funds used to save the black rhinoceros from extinction.

— Janos Varga, who lost his job at a major scientific magazine

after he became a leader in the movement to halt the \$3 billion Nagymaros hydroelectric project on the Danube.

— Harrison Ngau, of Malaysia, a leader in a movement to prevent the loss of Malaysian rainforests. Because of his activities, he was jailed for 60 days in 1987 and then barred until June 1989 from engaging in further political action.

— Bob Brown, an Australian physician who gave up his medical practice to help found the Tasmanian Wilderness Society and prevent the damming of one of Australia's last free-flowing rivers.

— Janet Gibson, a biologist and vice-president of the Belize Audubon Society who led the fight to protect a 200-kilometre-long barrier reef off the coast of the Central American country.

— Lois Gibbs, a housewife

who sounded the alarm over the dumping of 22,000 tonnes of toxic waste in New York state's Love Canal. Her work resulted in the evacuation of 810 families from their homes and inspired grassroots environmental campaigns elsewhere in the United States.

When she travelled, she slipped in and out of airports in dark glasses and a slouch hat. "Garbo-watching" would wait hours outside her apartment, hoping to catch a glimpse of her. Photographers who stalked